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Approved For Release 2001/11/01 : CIA-RDP74B00415R000300070028-8  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

72-0228

8 MAR 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: Brigadier General Alexander M. Haig, Jr.  
Deputy Assistant to President for  
National Security Affairs

SUBJECT: An Air America C-123 Missing in Laos  
Since 27 December 1971

1. By memorandum dated 9 February 1972 I forwarded to you a letter, dated 8 February 1972, to the President from Mr. Paul C. Velte, Jr., Managing Director of Air America, Inc. In his letter Mr. Velte asked the President whether, during his trip to the People's Republic of China, he could obtain information from the Chinese government about an Air America C-123 aircraft and its crew, missing since 27 December 1971 on a flight which we suspect was shot down over the China Road in northwest Laos.
2. In the past few days this Agency and the State Department have received copies of correspondence from relatives of this crew to the President and Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield inquiring about the status of the crew of the plane (copies attached, Tabs A, B and C). These letters included requests that the Presidential visit to China be used as an opportunity to obtain information on the mission crew.
3. I would appreciate any information you can provide on this matter. We feel obliged to make timely replies to this correspondence and will suggest that Senator Mansfield respond along the lines of the attached suggested reply (Tab D) unless you have some other suggestion. You could presumably make a similar reply to Mrs. Nichols' letter to the President.

Thomas H. Karamessines  
Deputy Director for Plans

Attachments: A/S

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Memo to: Gen. Haig

Subject: An Air America C-123 Missing in Laos Since 27 December 1971

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